

Senate Resolution 258

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Thomas of the 54th, Douglas of the 17th and Bulloch of the 11th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing February 19, 2009, as
2 Rural Health Day at the State Capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is a nonprofit advocate for rural
4 health care consumers and the dedicated health care professionals who serve rural Georgia
5 and encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia has 110 rural counties encompassing over 2 million residents, with a
7 continuing decline in the availability and quality of health care providers, specialists, nurses,
8 and professional services; and

9 WHEREAS, these geographic areas have the highest cancer and cardiovascular mortality
10 rates and infant mortality, child abuse, and teen pregnancy rates and the growing uninsured
11 population and elderly population with multiple diseases far exceed the area's health care
12 resources; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Development Council recognizes that the limited availability
14 and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's distressed
15 economy and deter industry recruitment; and

16 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and
17 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, access to
18 capital for aging health care facilities, and medical malpractice tort reform.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
20 commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognize February 19,
21 2009, as Rural Health Day at the State Capitol.

- 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
23 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to GRHA.